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CHATTANOOGA AND CHICKAMAUGA NATIONAL MILITARY PARK.

COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D. C., March 12, 1908.

The committee met at 2 o'clock p. m.

Present: The chairman (Mr. Hull) and Messrs. E. S. Holliday, James F. Burke, James L. Slayden, George W. Gordon, and John A. Moon; also, Hon. William H. Taft, Secretary of War; Maj. Gen. William P. Duvall, and Messrs. D. M. Steward, Lewis M. Coleman, and T. C. Thompson, of Chattanooga, Tenn.

The committee had under consideration the bill, H. R. 3870, to add 10,000 acres of land, by purchase or condemnation, to the Chattanooga and Chickamauga National Military Park, and appropriating $200,000 for that purpose; and the bill, H. R. 4818, to add 20,000 acres of land, by purchase or condemnation, to the Chattanooga and Chickamauga National Military Park, and appropriating $900,000 for that purpose.

The CHAIRMAN. There is a very small number of the members of subcommittee No. 1 present, but if any of the others come in they can take part in the hearing. We will now proceed with the hearing.

Mr. JOHN A. MOON. Mr. Chairman, there are two bills now pending on this subject, but they both involve the same proposition. We will now ask the Secretary of War, Hon. William H. Taft, to first address the committee.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Secretary, you may proceed.

Secretary TAFT. Mr. Chairman, I can not say much about this matter, or at least what I have to say can be embraced within a very short space of time.

In the War Department we are very anxious to secure in different parts of the country large tracts of land for maneuver purposes, and also for the ultimate establishment of brigade posts. There is no such tract of land in the South—that is, in the South as we understand it. There is a very large tract of land which we are cherishing and hoping some day to make into a very important post, and that is at Fort Sill, but that is so far west that it hardly comes under the description of being south. We have been anxious to secure, at as reasonable a figure as we could, a maneuver ground, which should be as large as we could get it. We thought at first that we might get 15,000 acres in the neighborhood of Fort Oglethorpe and Chickamauga Park, but after having thought the matter over we concluded that we might just as well ask for what we needed and for what we wanted as for only one-half of what we needed and what we wanted. Accordingly, either I or General Oliver, I am not quite sure, although

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I think it was myself, appointed a committee to go over the ground in the neighborhood of Chattanooga, or to speak more accurately, in the neighborhood of Chickamauga Park, adjoining or near to Fort Oglethorpe, which has been carved out of the tract of land originally purchased as a national military park to celebrate the battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga.

The committee made a very complete report and recommended the purchase of a tract of land 32,000 acres in extent, which in every way, so far as I can judge from the report of the board of officers appointed, meets the requirements that such a military reservation ought to satisfy. It is a rolling, rough country; a good deal of it is in cultivation, but it is not so valuable but that the Government can afford to buy it and hold it. It had two long ridges of varying heights running through it, and it is admirably adapted, as I understand it, for maneuvering work and also for the establishment of artillery ranges and everything that is needed to exercise all branches of the service. It also has land situated in such a way that we could construct almost a division post there—certainly more than a brigade post. It is at a point in the country that is well served by railroads, and it is in one division of the country that has no such large reservation.

We need a large reservation in the southeastern part of the country and one in the northeastern part. When you go West they are more frequent. We have one at Fort Sill, one at Fort Sam Houston, one at Fort Riley, and in the neighborhood is Fort Leavenworth. These two together make a very useful connection of posts. Then we have one at Fort D. A. Russell and one at Fort Assiniboine, on the northern frontier.

The CHAIRMAN. How about Fort Robinson?

Secretary TAFT. Robinson is another one in Nebraska, and we do need one on the Pacific coast if we could purchase it. The one at American Lake is admirably adapted, but I am afraid that the prices at American Lake—because it is becoming more and more a suburb of Tacoma—are likely to be so high as to be prohibitive unless the action is taken very promptly. I think American Lake in many respects is the most beautiful tract of land in the country for purposes of this kind. It is not so rough as the country about Chattanooga, and perhaps that makes it a little less adapted to the service, which shall approximate or assimulate actual service, but these 32,000 acres at Chattanooga, if we could have them, could be used to great advantage.

Mr. HOLLIDAY. How much?

Secretary TAFT. Thirty-two thousand acres.

Mr. HOLLIDAY. How much have you there now, Mr. Secretary?

Secretary TAFT. We only have part of Chickamauga. How many acres are there in that Fort Oglethorpe Reservation?

General DUVALL. Eight hundred acres.

Secretary TAFT. I do not understand the price at which it was taken, but it was taken from Chickamauga Park. I think the Chickamauga Park Commission allowed it to be taken and allowed Congress subsequently to confirm it.

The CHAIRMAN. Virtually all of the officers of the War Department at that time violated all the law, and my good old friend Boynton aided and abetted them. The Committee on Appropriations re-

lieved Boynton, and appealed to all the rest of us to do so on the ground that they would never do it again. Now, Mr. Secretary, here are two bills, one proposing to add 20,000 acres for $900,000 and the other proposing to add 10,000 acres at a cost of $200,000. Is it intended to try for both of them?

Mr. JOHN A. MOON. Allow me to explain. These bills cover the same general purpose, and that was simply a figure put in to have something in the bill. We did not know really what amount ought to be put in the bill and we left it to the committee to ascertain from the proof.

Secretary TAFT. The price fixed by the option is $921,000, with an assurance that they could probably get the whole tract at 20 per cent less.

The CHAIRMAN. Neither of these two bills, then, are in shape to be reported?

Mr. JOHN A. MOON. Neither of these bills are in the shape that we want to pass them or want the committee to pass them. We want the committee to pass such a bill as we prove before you the facts justify, with special regard to the testimony of the Secretary of War and the officers of that Department.

Secretary TAFT. Major-General Duvall, who is present to-day, was, at the time this matter was mooted, in command as brigadier-general of the department, with headquarters at Atlanta, and he went over the ground. He was appointed on the board with officers of other branches of the service, he himself being an artilleryman, and we have, therefore, the best expert evidence as to the character of the ground.

There is some question about the water, but General Duvall can explain that, I am quite sure. There are a great many springs there, and at Oglethorpe they have artesian wells, so I have no doubt that the water supply can be made what it ought to be. I think some of the water that was examined proved to be, well, unhealthful, to say the least, but I believe further investigation showed that good water was easily obtainable.

Mr. SLAYDEN. The artesian well water is all good there.

Secretary TAFT. Yes, sir; that is good—that is, in Chickamauga Park.

Mr. SLAYDEN. It is contiguous property?

Secretary TAFT. That is all I have to say, Mr. Chairman. I did not go over the ground personally, because I did not think it would add either to your information or mine from an expert standpoint.

Mr. SLAYDEN. We would like to know something about the price of that land per acre, but we can get that from these other gentlemen, I suppose.

Secretary TAFT. Oh, I ought to say that beginning as we did begin in the War Department—and we do not wish to lose any information that can help us to a result—we consulted gentlemen in Chattanooga who are naturally interested in having so large a post as this would come to be established in their neighborhood, and Colonel Steward, a veteran of the civil war, and who is very familiar with land there, and who has had to do, I think, with the purchase of land at Chickamauga Park, has said that he thought we could procure options for this land in such a way as to enable us to make a definite proposition to the committee, and accordingly he exerted

himself with the committee from Chattanooga to secure options and information which would enable them to state exactly what the land could be purchased for, and those gentlemen are here—interested both in having the Army properly situated and in having proper maneuvers everywhere, but not without the enthusiasm that comes from an intimate knowledge of the locality. [Laughter.]

STATEMENT OF MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM P. DUVALL.

Mr. JOHN A. MOON. Mr. Chairman, I now present Maj. Gen. William P. Duvall.

Major-General DUVALL. Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, the Secretary of War has given in broad lines a very accurate description of this tract of land, but I might add to it, perhaps, a few interesting details. First, I have been all over this tract of land; I spent two days on it. The first visit was made soon after we got our order—I think that came out the latter part of November, 1906; we went there early in December. The other members of the board were Colonel Kerr, of the Twelfth Cavalry, who is just about to be made a brigadier-general, a man of experience in the cavalry; another member was my chief quartermaster, Colonel Hodgson, one of the best quartermasters we have, and a third member was Captain Donnelly, now of the Field Artillery. I was president of the board. We went over the ground with Colonel Steward and other gentlemen from Chattanooga; one of them, Mr. Payne, was, I believe, immediately employed in getting these options at that time; they had obtained options on only that part of the tract which was intended for maneuvers—that is, the part south of the Ringgold road reaching over to opposite the head of Chickamauga Park and running north and south, which is the tract that the Secretary has just described.

Mr. SLAYDEN. How many acres are there in that tract?

Major-General DUVALL. At that time they had secured options on a little over 18,000 acres, but our board, desiring to run it up to the crest of the ridges, as I will explain in a few moments, options were therefore obtained on twenty-three thousand and some odd acres. The two valleys that the Secretary has described are separated by a ridge, and what we wanted to do was to have the options obtained up to the crests of two parallel lateral ridges, to east and west, running parallel to this middle ridge. The eastern ridge, Taylors Ridge, is quite high, rough, and precipitous; the other is not quite so much so. The purpose was that in case we had large forces maneuvering in there we could very readily see the limits of the reservation, and would not be so likely to commit trespasses on private lands, thereby entailing expense, etc. It was considered necessary to secure both of these valleys, separated by this ridge, for the purpose of maneuvers, because if the tract were confined to a single valley—there being little rise and fall in the north and south lines of this tract—you would be able to see over the entire tract wherever you were, and you would not get the benefit of good maneuvers at all; the enemy would be in sight all the time; whereas, with this interposing ridge, if you sent a force down to the lower end of the tract, 9 miles off, by night, say, you would have to discover the enemy just the same as in actual war—you would not know where he was.

Of course, we all know about the climate. It is delightful—just under the thirty-fifth parallel. The winters are short and mild, and the officers who are stationed there—Colonel Kerr and other officers—tell me there is scarcely a day the whole winter through when they do not drill. That, of course, would be a great advantage. There would be no loss of time. We could do work there at all seasons of the year.

As to the soil, it is mainly of a material—that is, the top soil—composed of what they call chert, a formation of disintegrated flint; the rain percolates through it almost immediately. We went a month later than this first visit, right after a heavy rain, to see what the effect would be both as to the water supply and the soil. It was most satisfactory. I do not think that over the whole tract we saw as much as an acre of mud.

There are a few little marshy places, but they are negligible; they are so few and small that they really need not be considered. The tract is accessible, as the Secretary has said. There is good railroad service into this section of the country. The tract of land which we recommended to be added to the big tract they had first got options on is nearer the reservation at Fort Oglethorpe (which is intended to be developed into a brigade post), and connects with Chickamauga Park. We considered this to be necessary in order to give a means of getting from the post itself onto the maneuver ground and back without going off our own land. The average price per acre of the first big tract optioned—this 18,000 acres—was $18.20, but when they got options on the other land near Fort Oglethorpe (a great deal of it is more valuable land, some of it being under cultivation as fruit orchards, etc.) they ran the price up, so I think the average price of the whole tract of 32,000 acres is $28.20—$10 an acre more than the other—although, as the Secretary has said, the gentleman who made the report, Mr. Payne, and who obtained all the options, states that he has no doubt the whole tract, if it was purchased, could be got for 20 per cent less, which would bring it down to $737,000.

On this second visit, made after this severe storm, the water supply in these big springs was just as pure and clear as it was the first time. There was not the slightest bit of sediment or other visible taint about it, showing that it came from a source that is not contaminable by surface impurities. As the Secretary has said, there is one spring that they reported on, and to which they gave a black eye, the Martin Spring; but it should be remembered, in justice to the tract, that those samples of water were obtained down there and sent up here for analysis. In other words, the person who analyzed them does not know exactly what the lay of the water was or what kind of place it came from, whether it was from a spring in which leaves were rotting, or where; but the general report of the water supply was most favorable. These are beautiful springs, one of them as large as this room—the biggest spring that I ever saw, except the one at Bellefonte, Pa., and it is almost as big as that.

I can say that all of the officers of this board were perfectly enthused about this tract of land. I may add that I was at the West Point maneuvers in Kentucky in 1903, sent there officially, as an observer, and saw everything. I went over that tract repeatedly. And in the summer of 1904 I was chief umpire in the maneuvers in California at the Henry ranch, which is a very beautiful piece of country, and I also witnessed the American Lake maneuvers that year, and I

do not think there is any comparison, from a military point of view, in the value of these three tracts. In other words, I think the Oglethorpe tract is much the finest, much the best, of the three, nor are my remarks at all influenced by the audience. I would say the same if I were at American Lake or in California.

The land, immediately contiguous to Fort Oglethorpe, which was recommended for options, and on a large part of which options were later secured, was mainly for the expansion of the post. It is suitable for that. It is gently rolling and adapted for building, for drilling grounds, and for ceremonies. It is not large enough for extended-order drills; these we proposed to have on the maneuver grounds. There is a part of this land next to Fort Oglethorpe—the part that runs immediately west up to the top of the crest—which was recommended to be purchased simply for sanitary purposes, to protect the water supply. Colonel Steward is quite well posted on the geological formation down there, much better informed than I am, but I know that the general idea was that in order to insure the purity of the water supply for that large post we ought to own the land up to that crest because it is probably the top of the watershed for that whole country, and if you get water from artesian wells and do not own that land, for the purpose of keeping out fecal matter and other contamination, the water supply might very likely be defiled.

The CHAIRMAN. I do not understand that this reservation is intended to fill only the want of that section of the country.

Major-General DUVALL. No, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. You referred to the Henry Ranch and other ranches. I understand that the proposition for their purchase was on the same lines as this, but in another section of the country.

Major-General DUVALL. Exactly so; yes, sir. I meant to say that some people might think that I am speaking so enthusiastically about this tract because there are a number of gentlemen here who are representing it, and I wanted to say that that did not make any difference with me. I am convinced that the Oglethorpe tract is much the best of the lot, and from what the Secretary said, that we have no tracts in that part of the country, I think it is the one that should have precedence in consideration.

The CHAIRMAN. Is it proposed to have a large maneuver grounds and camp site in the State of Washington and another in California, or just one?

Major-General DUVALL. Only one on the Pacific coast.

Secretary TAFT. The competition is between the Henry Ranch and the American Lake.

The CHAIRMAN. They are separated, Mr. Secretary, by about 1,200 or 1,500 miles, are they not?

Secretary TAFT. Yes, sir.

Major-General DUVALL. Mr. Chairman, I do not think of anything else of interest to say, but if there is any other information that I can give I would be very glad to have it brought out by questions.

Mr. BURKE. I understood you to say that the land could be purchased at less than the amount stated in the options?

Major-General DUVALL. My statement was based on the report of Mr. Payne, a young lawyer in Chattanooga, who knows these people—I rode with him over this tract and found that he knew the name of

every landholder in the section and has reported the names on the map that has been put in—and has a very intimate knowledge of the conditions with respect to prices. In his report he stated specifically that he has no doubt the land could be acquired at a reduction of 20 per cent of this $921,000, which would bring it down to $737,000. Mr. Patton suggests that there is an advantage also in having this tract so near the battlefield there. That is a fact.

Secretary TAFT. It is all in Georgia, is it, General?

Major-General DUVALL. Yes, sir; all this land is in Georgia, in Catoosa County.

I forgot to say anything about the roads. There is a very fine road, a Government road, running from Chickamauga Park through Ringgold Gap, which therefore runs through the northern part of this added tract and along the northern border of the big tract, the maneuver tract. That road is in just as fine condition as any road in Chickamauga Park. It is as beautiful a road as you will see anywhere. In the eastern valley, between Taylors Ridge and Chickamauga Hills (the middle ridge), there is one very good road that runs the whole length of the valley. In the other valley, between Chickamauga Hills and Peavine Ridge, there are two parallel roads running the length of the valley, not quite as good as the others, but nevertheless good county roads; very good for maneuver purposes at any time of the year. Across the ridge between the two valleys there are half a dozen roads not shown on the map. This is a very unsatisfactory map. I mention this to show that from one valley to the other there are numerous connecting roads, which add to the admirable features of the tract for the purpose of maneuvering.

That is all I care to say, Mr. Chairman.

Secretary TAFT. Mr. Chairman, would you like to have in your record a copy of the report made by that board of officers? I do not know what you have it, and if you have not we have it here.

The CHAIRMAN. It would be well to have it in the record.

Major-General DUVALL. I would say that the one I have was sent by General Oliver to the chairman of the Senate Military Committee, and I could get it only on a promise that I would return it to-day.

The CHAIRMAN. If it is to be printed, it is not necessary that it should go in this record. We can get it.

STATEMENT OF COL. D. M. STEWARD, OF CHATTANOOGA.

Mr. JOHN A. MOON. Mr. Chairman, I desire to introduce Col. D. M. Steward.

Mr. STEWARD. Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the committee, the Secretary of War and General Duvall have together made my speech. General Duvall is the only real-estate agent in the party. The Chattanooga people are not real-estate agents at all; but if we were we could not have made a more conclusive argument in favor of this land, or the purchase of this land, than that advanced by General Duvall, and it confirms my opinion of him as a soldier. He evidently understands his business. I speak from the standpoint of a veteran soldier.

I just want to say by way of preface that the reason for the appearance of myself and these other gentlemen here is simply this, that we represent a body of commercial men in Chattanooga, called the

chamber of commerce, that takes up any public movement whatever looking to the good or the welfare of Chattanooga and vicinity, and when we first heard of this movement for the establishment of a brigade post and maneuver ground in our vicinity we certainly would have been asleep if we had not taken advantage of it from a selfish standpoint, if you please, to bring everything to our city that could legitimately be asked for.

As to my own connection with the matter, I had the honor to be appointed chairman of this committee, as I was chairman of the previous committee that had to do with the establishment of Fort Oglethorpe, from my personal acquaintance with the ground, and with Chickamauga Park, and its military history, etc.

Now, to be as brief as possible, and to give you the points from the business man's standpoint, as well as from the standpoint of a veteran soldier, I have here some maps that were prepared in connection with this matter. The first one is a map showing the latitudinal lines decided upon by the General Staff, I think three years ago, perhaps. In discussing this question we got hold of the knowledge in some way that the General Staff had decided to establish brigade posts, dividing into four grand divisions the entire country. The grand division in the Southeast comprises, as you see, almost the entire South, with the exception of Texas; it takes a little slice off the eastern portion of Texas, and Chattanooga is the geographical center of that grand division. It follows that in handling the troops that would necessarily be sent from the various States of the South to this maneuver ground that the Government and the States would look to the economy of moving the troops there by troop trains, and the expedition with which they could be carried to this maneuver ground and returned to their homes. We have nine trunk lines, I think, and we have twelve railways centering at Chattanooga. There are, I think, five trunk lines running from there to the seaboard. It has every advantage in the way of location that could be desired. Now, this other map is one that was prepared very carefully. It is a sectional map. It shows every bit of land, every quarter section of land in the entire reservation, as surveyed by this board of which General Duvall is president.

The CHAIRMAN. It is a topographical map, is it?

Mr. STEWARD. Yes, sir; it shows the contours and all the elevations of mountain ranges, hills, and valleys, and shows, moreover, the location of all these springs.

I want to say a word, while I am on this line, with reference to the water supply. I am familiar with quite a large part of our country and I can say without fear of successful contradiction that there is no tract of land of the same number of acres, or even a greater number of acres, in this country that can afford a water supply that will anywhere equal the water supply of this tract of land. The one spring referred to by General Duvall is on what is known as the "Yates tract." There are three or four farms there that are owned by a family of brothers by the name of Yates, and there are five or six of these springs of enormous size on these farms, and the one spring to which General Duvall referred, the width of the opening at the bottom of a hill is fully the length of this room and the height of it is probably 18 inches—that is, the water is 18 inches deep, and it is about the length of this room, emerging from

under that rocky hill with a force of a Niagara pump; it resembles the discharge from an enormous pump.

The General is quite correct in saying that the water is perfectly pure, even after a hard rain. I can confirm that and go a little further. After one summer of three months' rain, almost continuously day and night—and these gentlemen from my section will corroborate what I say—the summer was a rainy summer, it rained and rained "cats and dogs" all the time, and just about the time the rain ceased I asked the party of gentlemen connected with the chamber of commerce to go over that ground with me; there are none of those gentlemen present who were with me on that trip, but some of the officers of the chamber of commerce and a member of the board of directors went along. We had two carriages and there were half a dozen of us, and it consumed a whole day. It is about a 60-mile ride, as the General knows; it takes a full day to go around over even a small part of it. The three streams referred to are on the map and are the east and west branches of the Chickamauga and the Pea Vine Creek. All three afford very fine drainage for the whole tract. Those streams were so full of water that they were out of their banks, and at one of the fords that we were compelled to cross the members of the party had to climb up on the back seats to keep from getting a good wetting. There was water, water everywhere. The springs were just as clear when we reached them as the air you breathe.

Now, that was after three months' rain. There was not a sign of turbidity, not a single speck or fleck of mud or anything of the sort. Now, that proves to my mind conclusively, and to the mind of anyone else who has seen these springs, that they have their origin at an immense depth, beyond any possibility of contamination, as has been referred to by Secretary Taft and General Duvall. And, further, with reference to this water question, I made it my business last year when I was up here to go to the Bureau of Chemistry of the Army, where I had an hour's interview with Doctor Hodge, in order to fortify myself with points on the water question. I wanted to have the report elucidated; it was very technical, and I wanted to get it into language that a layman could comprehend. Doctor Hodge assured me that it was the purest water that the Bureau of Chemistry had ever analyzed. The point made by General Duvall that the water was taken from the spring there and brought here and probably analyzed after four or five or six days, would make quite a difference in the analysis, as you will understand, of the water after having been obtained in warm weather, too. But the water as it emerges from these springs, I was assured by Doctor Hodge, *could be used by the troops with impunity* and that *it would not be necessary at all to sterilize the water* or to treat it in any manner; the water just as it comes from the rock there could be used with perfect safety. There is a water supply there for 150,000 men. There are no less than 20 large springs on the tract. It is a most remarkable thing.

As to the one spring, the Martin, that the General alluded to, I think there might be an objection to the water, but I can very easily explain that: The Martin Spring, if you remember, General, the lay of the land, was at an angle something like that [indicating 30°], sloping back from the spring up to the top of a ridge there and forming a basin or watershed, the spring being at the base of it. Now,

while the spring was perfectly clear, as far as that is concerned, yet it is very easy to see that if a little protection had been thrown up above the spring on the rock at the back of the spring to shut the water away from there you would get none of the surface water in it, which is accountable for this report of the chemist. The water in that spring was, of course, contaminated by surface water flowing into it. That is very easily seen. The Doctor remarked that possibly some of those springs would be better if they were surrounded by concrete basins, laid in cement or something of that kind, to prevent the inflow of surface water that might possibly carry some contagion that might be detrimental to the health of the men.

Now, as to the rifle range and artillery ranges, I remember very well the remarks of the gentlemen of that board of officers as they passed over that ground repeatedly—what an admirable place it was; how delightfully located, as far as finding good places for rifle ranges was concerned. One would remark, "There is a good place in that little valley there," and another would say, "There is another on that side," and so it was all over the place. You would not have to go, as the troops at Fort Oglethorpe now have to go, 10 or 12 miles for target practice. They go out and stay two or three weeks. There are some of them now on that reservation that the Government paid $10,000 for. Now, that rifle range there would not compare with a number that could be made on this tract of land. Then, again, General Duvall will remember that we found a number of places where ranges for artillery, field artillery, could be readily had, having a range of from 3 to 6 miles to a mountain range at the back as a butt, so as to preclude the possibility of the ricochetting of any shells or shot to the injury of the population there.

The Secretary of War and the General have almost covered the ground entirely, and they have done it in such a masterly way that it would be presumption on my part to undertake to supplement what they have said. I only allude to these things that they have not touched upon or have not fully explained to you. As to that water supply, I regard it as one of the greatest importance, and the water supply is absolutely pure. It is not necessary to drill any holes there.

I want to say, further, in explanation of that that the formation of this tract of land is entirely different from what it is at Chickamauga. The whole tract of 7,000 acres or more, about 8,000 acres, including the reservation of 8,000 acres on which Fort Oglethorpe stands, is of a different formation geologically. The rock crops out in many places on the battlefield of Chickamauga, and in some places it comes within a foot or two of the surface, and that is, of course, covered with earth which is composed of decaying vegetable matter, etc., and what is washed on there, and after it rains it becomes very muddy and is a very disagreeable place in which to handle troops or to handle wagons or anything of that sort; I know that by experience. This other tract is entirely different; it is rolling and is drained by these three streams that flow through it from south to north, and the character of the formation, as has been stated by the General, is chert. It gives them an admirable range. In the course of an hour after a hard rain the men can be drilled in skirmish drills and lie down on the ground without soiling their clothing at all. There are millions of tons of the best road-making material in the world there. It makes beautiful roads, and the men can be maneuvered all over that land,

and you can get on this tract of land almost any kind of situation that would confront you in actual warfare—hill, valley, and stream.

The CHAIRMAN. You must have pretty thin soil?

Mr. STEWARD. I beg your pardon; there is none of that on this tract at all.

The CHAIRMAN. There is not any amount of depth of soil, is there?

Mr. STEWARD. That is in Chickamauga, on the other side, west of Chickamauga. It is entirely different, as I have stated; it is a different formation altogether. The rock comes close to the surface, and what little soil there is there in a continued rain would make it pretty muddy. The Seventh Cavalry was there for several years near Chickamauga. That is not awfully bad at the worst, but it is a flat ground to the east end of the park, and even there they got along very well; still, I would not advocate the use of water from the wells there for the reason that the limestone formation that is under the soil is seamed with cracks and crevices, and for that reason the General said he advocated the purchase of the land immediately adjoining Fort Oglethorpe, and which controlled the water supply from the watershed there from the top of Missionary Ridge. It flows down through this limestone formation, which was tested by the surgeon there at Fort Oglethorpe not a great while ago.

Mr. JOHN A. MOON. You are talking now about the land we propose to buy?

Mr. STEWARD. Yes; that is what I am talking of now—this 6,000 acres adjoining the post. The 24,000 acres is on the other side of these streams and to the eastward of Chickamauga Park and south of Ringgold road, along between Taylors Ridge on the east and Chickamauga Park on the west. That is a different formation altogether.

Mr. JOHN A. MOON. Was there any difficulty with regard to the land that we are talking about buying?

Mr. STEWARD. No; there is water there for 200,000 men—a never-failing supply. The General will remember that Mr. Yates, the old gentleman who has been living there for sixty years, went with us down to the spring and the General asked him this question: "Does the water supply of this spring ever vary; does it run down and the spring get low in the summer?" The old gentleman said: "No, sir; I have been here over sixty years and I never saw it any less or any greater in volume than it is now." It is very constant and shows that it comes from a very great depth, and it is absolutely pure.

I do not know, gentlemen, that I have anything else to say, unless you desire to ask me some questions.

There being no further questions, Mr. Steward was excused.

Mr. STEWARD. Mr. Chairman, I forgot something in the course of my remarks, and I will refer to it briefly. I want to assure the gentlemen of this committee that this measure meets with the approval and has the backing of the entire Grand Army of the Republic. I have here in this envelope papers—I will not trouble you to hear them—but take my word for it as a veteran that they bear the indorsements of the post of the Grand Army of the Republic, the members of which came to me voluntarily. As soon as they heard of this movement they immediately formulated resolutions and instructed their Representatives in the Senate and in Congress generally to vote for and to approve this scheme for the establishment of

brigade posts and maneuver grounds. I will not read this letter, but it is a communication from the commander in chief of the Grand Army of the Republic approving this measure in the warmest terms, and saying to me that he had instructed the chairman of the committee on legislation to use his best endeavors to see that the Moon bill was passed, and so I beg to assure you that your own constituents at home will approve your action in passing this bill or in approving it in this committee.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to say by way of explanation that these options on the 32,000 acres of land were obtained by a young lawyer employed by myself and working under my directions. He was born and brought up near Ringgold and is personally acquainted with nearly everybody in the county. I used the name of one of my superintendents in my business in order that the owners of the property might not become excited and run up the prices, as they might have done had they known that the land was wanted by the Government. In this way a great saving was undoubtedly made and prices established at their actual value.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that the vast fund of information regarding the study of the battlefields, of which there are a number besides Chickamauga within easy reach of this reservation, would be a constant source of study for young officers and soldiers stationed at Fort Oglethorpe.

As chairman of the committee in charge of this work, I am in receipt of very many letters from citizens and soldiers of the civil war, who, without a single exception, give their hearty support to the movement for establishing maneuver grounds, as well as a brigade post, at Chickamauga. As a sample, I wish to read an extract from one letter.

OFFICE OF COMMANDER IN CHIEF, G. A. R.,
Kansas City, Mo., December 26, 1907.

I note the contents of your letter and am favorable to the location of a brigade army post at Chickamauga, and will refer your letter to the committee on legislation, of which Comrade I. G. Kimball, Washington, D. C., is chairman, with instructions to have the committee do what it can to secure the enactment of the Moon bill.

Yours, fraternally, C. G. BURTON.
Commander in Chief, G. A. R.

Mr. JOHN A. MOON. Mr. Chairman, I believe there are no other gentlemen who desire to be heard.

(The committee thereupon adjourned.)

STATEMENT OF MR. LEWIS M. COLEMAN, OF CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the committee, I appear here to represent a feature of the service, as well as my friend, Colonel Steward. I belonged to the home guard, in 1861, at the age of about three months, or less than that, when the great civil war began, and I held Charlottesville against the arms of both sides, and later I went down to that God-forsaken country of Hanover, down near Richmond, and there I protected against the traveling quartermasters of both armies the finest set of switch horses under the front porch that a young boy ever saw.

Now, gentlemen, it is true that we of Chattanooga might be considered to have some interest personally and pecuniarily in this matter; you will pardon that, but the rising generation of the South has a greater interest in that park, we believe, even than those who took part in the civil war. We have been entirely regenerated. I, myself, am indebted to Chickamauga Park for the greatest happiness of my life. My father fell on the battlefield of Fredericksburg, and I went to the great city of Chattanooga, then a mere struggling village, and I found soon after I arrived there that the daughter of a staff officer of the Rock of Chickamauga had come down from the North and had again overpowered us, as they had done before, and I surrendered absolutely and unconditionally. So I say to you, gentlemen, that I speak to you as a broad-minded American citizen, because I am absolutely controlled by a daughter of a staff officer of the Rock of Chickamauga.

We of Chattanooga are extremely patriotic. I live right in the middle of the park on Lookout Mountain, right on Cranes Terrace, and from my front porch I can easily look out at Mission Ridge, stretching its long miles of turf to the east of Chattanooga, and I admit to you gentlemen that I sometimes wonder if Stonewall's Brigade had been on top of that ridge if it could ever have been taken. But then I go beyond that and look at the great battlefield of Chickamauga and there I see almost a drawn battle, though it technically went to the South, yet practically a drawn battle, showing the chivalry and the manhood of this nation; and so it is that we people of Chattanooga feel that we are as patriotic, if not more patriotic, than any people in this country.

Now, looking over that field, and knowing from experience in the civil war—or rather from history—that the South had the early advantage from the fact of its citizen soldierly—and that is an historical fact—and also remembering the fact that in that little scrimmage that we had with Spain we collected a lot of the rawest, greenest, and most awkward squads of men that ever pretended to be in arms, and with that in mind, with those facts in view, and remembering the history that you all have read of the struggles of William the Silent, when he built up the Netherlands from the sea, and remembering how the handfull of Philip's troops from Spain put to flight, murdered, and almost exterminated those brave Dutch—I say that sometimes it gets into my mind that even as great a nation as we are, we might be subjected with our raw soldierly to an extermination never, but to suffering and to a loss for which no Government should feel responsible.

When I was a young man in the South, and went all over this country, we had State troops. Each State took a great pride in its militia. They each had a separate army; they each had different kinds of uniforms and were proud of it. They had contests, one with another, but when the nation took over our militia and formed a national guard all that competition was eliminated and we are now simply a part of the great Army of the Union.

Now, the statistics will tell you that those militia troops are not full; they are not as thin as the Regulars, but they are not filled up; and now I want to say to you that it seems to me that one great object of this maneuvering grounds, not only this but other maneuvering grounds, is to bring together this great volunteer soldiery of our

country and to make soldiers of them, and not have, should we ever become involved with another nation, this herd of untrained, inexperienced, unhealthy men crowded together which must be disseminated before they have been trained to be real soldiers, and in the meantime our nation must suffer.

Now, it seems to me that here we have a chance for the nation to throw open these maneuvering grounds and to invite them to come and to pay the expenses (I know it has not been done at this Congress, but it may be) of these organizations of volunteers and the National Guard in the different States, have them brought here and taught real soldiery.

Now, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the committee, if you will look back to the collecting together and the reconnoitering of the troops in the Spanish-American war, and look at the disease and the delay caused by the greenness of these troops you must learn this lesson. And why should we wait until our shores are attacked by a foreign enemy to learn it? Why should we not train them on this maneuver ground? So I say to you, and I believe it must be admitted here, that these maneuver grounds are suitable for the purpose; that they are cheap, and therefore I need not argue that to you, but we feel—we young men who were born in 1861 and have grown up to love our country—feel that the Government of the United States ought to make this the first line of her defense—yes, it is not only the first line of her defense, but it is the great line of her offense, and we must trust to the citizen soldiery to protect our country, and to do it we must train them. Why, we had some maneuvers on the battlefield of Chickamauga about two years ago, and this is no play; this is no summer vacation that these men went down there to. The Virginia regiment, the North Carolina regiment, the Alabama regiment, and the Mississippi regiment came there, and under the tutilage of the gallant Twelfth Cavalry and under the tutilage of the general officers brought there by the Government they were put to work and worked for two weeks harder than any of them ever did, and yet when they left and we said, "We hope we may see you back," they said, "We have learned more about soldiering here in two weeks than we had in three years at home."

It is for this purpose, gentlemen, that we ask you, not as Chattanoogans, not as Southerners, but as American citizens that you do your duty and in this way help to build up the volunteer soldiery, the safeguard of our nation.

STATEMENT OF T. C. THOMPSON, OF CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I am not a very much younger man than Mr. Coleman, but I was a member of the infantry during that great civil conflict to which he referred, but in the language of our great cavalry leader, now recognized by all men, Mr. Coleman got here the first with the most men and spoke my speech.

I would like to detain you but for a moment, sir, as I am an officer of the first line of defense, now so called in the War Department, of the volunteer soldiery of the United States, and to give you a concrete illustration of the necessity for a maneuver ground, we recently had the problem, should a foreign foe land on the Pacific slope, try-

ing to make its way to Washington, how long it would take the Tennessee troops to move from Nashville, the capital of the State, to Chicago, the point where we might be ordered, and intercept it. I am not at liberty, even before this distinguished committee, to give the result, as worked out, of that problem, but it was agreed by all of us that one-half of the time that we would consume in making that movement would be due to our ignorance of handling large bodies of troops, due to the fact that we had no maneuvering ground on which we could be instructed how to handle those troops.

Now, I think it is a recognized fact that the militia is going to be taken care of by the Government, and just as essential as it is to the Regular Army to have its maneuvers it is even more essential that the militia should have it.

I would speak to you then from the standpoint of a son of an American soldier, and I think no man in the sound of my voice would controvert the fact that any man may be proud of whatever was done at Chickamauga, whether his father wore the blue or the gray—and when you can send men from all over this great country to a central point where they can maneuver on a battlefield over which 100,000 American soldiers fought for two days and two nights with a casualty of 33 per cent—up to that time the most unheard of casualties in modern warfare—the inspiration that they would draw from that is worth all that the Government might expend.

There is a monument at the entrance of Chickamauga Park dedicated by the State of Kentucky to the soldiers of both armies, which bears a pathetic inscription—which is truly American—and which appears on the face of that monument, written by a man who had two sons in that battlefield, one a colonel in the Confederate cavalry and the other a captain in the Federal cavalry, and both sons fell there.

So that aside from the business part of it, it strikes me as an officer of the militia and an American citizen that there is a certain amount of sentiment that should be taken into account by this committee, and that is the inspiration which would influence all young soldiers in going to these maneuver grounds.

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